



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board  
General Membership Minutes for Monday, September 19, 2016**

**Welcome & Introductions**, Commissioner Dr. Garcia, called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. Customary introductions were made by all in attendance.

**Membership & Infrastructure:**

Commissioner Dr. Garcia welcomed the new Chairman of the Research Committee, Dr. John Maskaly. Jeff Segura, CJAB Program Manager gave a brief bio of Dr. John Maskaly, Assistant Professor of Criminology and Sociology at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Commissioner Dr. Garcia also informed the committee that since Chief David Brown was retiring a new Co-Chair for CJAB was needed. Commissioner Dr. Garcia nominated Assistant District Attorney Ellyce Lindberg as the new Co-Chair of the Criminal Justice Advisory Board. The nomination was seconded and the motion approved by the committee.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the CJAB General Membership meeting held on June 20, 2016, were made a part of the packet. There was a motion made to accept the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Presentations:**

**Second Chance Community Improvement Program Court by Lynn Richardson and Yulise Waters:**

Commissioner Dr. Garcia introduced Lynn Richardson, Dallas County Chief Public Defender, and gave a brief biography. Ms. Richardson began with the background of the program. Ms. Richardson stated the Center for Court Innovation awarded the Dallas County Public Defenders officer a grant to enhance a program called the Second Chance Community Improvement Program (S.C.C.I.P). The first Community Court Program began in Manhattan, New York and partnered with the providers in the community, police Department, and District Attorney's Office. The program helped make a significant change by involving all these groups and the community as well. The program helped hold people accountable and gave them resources for rehabilitation.

The S.C.C.I.P. program in Dallas has been operating for over year with the help of the City Attorneys, Public Defenders, District Attorneys, and with Judge Magnis of the 283<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District Court presiding.

Lynn Richardson introduced Yulise Waters who presented the Second Chance Community Improvement Program (S.C.C.I.P.).

The program is nine to eighteen months and targets 18-25 year olds (although up to 30 year olds are being considered) in the 75215 and 75210 zip codes (75216 are being considered as well). The program is set up to help non-violent offenders and those with drug related offenses. Some examples of these offenses are Possession, Manufacturing, Delivery, Theft, and Evading Arrest. The S.C.C.I.P. court received a 2 year Community Court Grant from the United States Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Center for Court Innovation to establish the first ever felony community Court. On September 30, 2016, part of the implementation of the grant established it as a community court. One of the criteria of the court is that it be held in the community they serve and will be held at South Dallas Community Court at 2922 MLK Jr. Blvd Dallas, TX.

The program's expectations of their participants include: submit to social service assessments, attend bi-monthly court hearings, and abide by court order. The court order could also include drug testing, education, job skill training, counseling, community service, etc. Since the pilot program began in November 2014, there have been four graduates. All graduates participated in social services, job training or placement, and had class C Citations dismissed or satisfied, as well as felony and/or misdemeanor pending charges dismissed and expunged.

Yulise Waters of S.C.C.I.P. discussed the six common principles and practices of community courts which included enhanced information, community engagement, collaboration, individual justice, accountability, and outcomes. Enhanced information is a way to train staff to listen to client's needs and be able to plug the clients into services. Community Engagement is to have citizens help identify and prioritize local problems. Collaboration is having local stakeholders work together; currently they have some local pastors, Madison High School staff, and Lincoln High School staff. Individual justice is using evidence based risk assessment to link offenders with appropriate services. Accountability is when the court uses restitution mandates in the community such as community service. The Outcome principal is collecting the data generated from the program. Currently they are partnered with University of North Texas's Dr. Larry Terry to help with research and gathering of information to make sure they are on target to meet their goals.

Yulise Waters explained the goals of the S.C.C.I.P. program which include improving participant's lives by building support systems and coping skills which would aid the client in making better choices. The second goal is to strengthen

partnerships between law enforcement and the community. The third goal is to increase public trust in the court system. The fourth goal is improve quality of life and public safety in the targeted areas with community service and reducing recidivism.

Yulise Waters concluded her presentation with a story of an individual who has successfully completed the S.C.C.I.P Program.

### **Committee Project Updates:**

#### **Bail Bond:**

Mr. Finey reported that things are moving along, however the implementation of the Bondman's ability to get the bond under article 32.01 has run into problems with some judges because they were not ready for implementation.

Mr. Finey stated that the numbers are fluctuating up and down because there are far less people in jail. Mr. Finey further stated that they are not having trouble with local bondsman, but having some difficulty collecting from out of town bondsman; however the problem is not insurmountable.

The Bond Forfeiture Judgment Report reflected judgment totals from January 2016 through August 2016. The total judgments ordered by the courts for the aforementioned period was \$1,214,111.73 for 1589 cases. The Account 62 reports reflected total bond forfeiture collected by the felony court in August 2016 was \$66,695.00. For the same reporting period, the misdemeanor courts collected \$18,000.00.

#### **Fair Defense Committee:**

Lynn Richardson reported that the goal of the Fair Defense Committee was to ensure Dallas County is in compliance with the Fair Defense Act, particularly indigent screening for counsel and appointing of counsel. Although they have not reached their goals, improvements have been made in assigning counsel. Some challenges have been getting indigent screening done. Lynn Richardson stated that she has met with Judge Terri McVeigh who has been meeting with other judges and Ryan Brown. The judges have indicated they are willing to staff or create an indigent screening committee which will have six to nine people who will be screening people immediately when they go before the magistrate. This would help with identifying people who need counsel but cannot afford it. It would also identify those who can pay something but may still need assistance. This group may have to reimburse the county based on a sliding scale. This committee will also have a mechanism in place that will address those who may be indigent or homeless but state they will hire their own attorney while sitting in jail; those individuals will be brought back before the court after a certain amount of time. The aforementioned committee will also be looking at poverty guidelines.

**Jail Population Update:**

Etho Pugh reported on the Jail Population meeting held on September 16, 2016. Excerpts from that meeting can be found on pages 27 through 33 of the packet. Mr. Pugh stated that the jail population for this date is 5,344.

**Justice of the Peace:**

Judge Steve Seider reported that the Stu Pot Court was held on September 10, 2016, and helped clear out tickets for about 20-25 homeless individuals. The court management system is moving slowly but there is progress. Judge Seider stated that he is still working on his program to help people who come in to his court who are veterans, homeless or have mental health issues. Judge Seider stated that he is looking to help people who may not fall into the criminal justice system or help people with minor offenses before they commit more serious offenses. Judge Seider stated he will be asking for help from the five county commissioners to help make the program he is creating a priority.

Ron Stretcher stated that he believed Judge Seider was on the right track and had looked at the possibility of making this a specialty court, however after meeting with Keta Dickerson that may not be the best designation. Ron Stretcher stated that it may be a possibility to look at this as another community court.

Judge Seider stated that a legislative fix was a possible way to make his court a specialty court. Judge Seider would also like to be able to provide peer mentors to the veterans and be able to alert the defendant and mentor via text about upcoming court dates. Also, he stated he would like to get memorandums of understanding with various municipalities to be able to take care of tickets in his court.

**Juvenile Justice:**

Dr. Terry Smith could not attend the meeting however Denika Caruthers was able to attend on her behalf. Ms. Caruthers reported that the Juvenile Department had their annual Day of Amnesty which is for youth pending misdemeanor referrals or probation violations and who have a warrant. The juveniles can come to the designated location and get a new court date. This year it was held at Red Bird Mall and fifteen youths participated. In order to complete the process the youth had to visit with three service providers who may be of assistance to the youth.

On September 7, 2016, Dr. Smith, Bill Edwards, Rudy Acosta, and Denika Caruthers testified before legislative Committee on Juvenile and Family Issues chaired by Representative Harold Dutton. Two issues were involved in this testimony. The first was raising the age a child could enter the juvenile justice system; the age currently set at age ten, but Dr. Smith and the Juvenile Department hope to raise that age. Dr. Smith also testified on keeping seventeen year olds in the juvenile system; however the Juvenile Department's focus will be

on potential raising of the entry age. The second item concerned data sharing which was focused on the cross over youth program. Denika Smith stated that in the future they will also be discussing concealed carry laws in regard to the juvenile system with Charles Reed, Dallas County's Lobbyist.

**Law Enforcement/Jurisprudence:**

Chief Spivey could not attend the meeting however Ellyce Lindberg gave an update stating that they have not met but will be meeting soon. The committee is still discussing data storage and the transfer of digital multi-media evidence between agencies.

**Research:**

This was Dr. John Maskaly's first meeting and he did not have anything to report. Jeff Segura added that Dr. Maskaly was anxious to get started and looked forward to meeting the various individuals who participate in CJAB.

**Public Policy:**

Council Member Medrano stated the Public Policy Committee met on September 9, 2016, and the minutes are in the packet. He stated that this meeting was an introductory meeting and they would be meeting at the end of October to work on the Legislative Agenda. Council Member Medrano stated if someone had something they wanted to have considered for the CJAB Legislative Agenda to submit it via a form that will be sent out. Commissioner Dr. Garcia stated CJAB was looking at a small agenda of possibly four or five items.

**Reentry:**

Dr. Crain could not attend the meeting however she forwarded items that she would like to include as an update to Jeff Segura. The first item was there were several Reentry Conferences and Summits this week and next. Many of Unlocking Doors' Reentry partners and providers are making presentations at these conferences. The second item was Dr. Crain is presenting at the Eastern District of Texas Reentry Summit this week in Beaumont; the focus is creating a Reentry board/network. The third item involves DART holding a Fun Day on October 22nd to focus on services along the Blue Line; in addition, Unlocking Doors will have a booth and presence at the event. The final item was that Unlocking DOORS has moved into a new State Headquarters. A grand opening will take place early in 2017 and everyone will be invited. Commissioner Dr. Garcia added that Unlocking Doors has a new website that was recently unveiled.

**Program Update:**

**SAMSHA Drug Court Expansion:**

Laura Edmonds could not attend however Ron Stretcher stated that at the end of September, they will move into the second year of the SAMSHA grant. 28

people have been served, the goal was 36. They have identified new referral pools and Dr. Gonzales will be helping with the evaluation part of the grant.

**Caruth Smart Justice Program Update**

Mike Laughlin stated that the program is moving forward and phase one is complete. Mike Laughlin stated that in June the Meadows Foundation, the primary grantee, was preparing to enter phase two of the program which is implementation. Phase two will consist of a five year and seven million dollar implementation grant process which will involve activities at the street level pre-arrest and improving the jail intake process, strengthening evidence based practices, and working with community partners. Phase two will begin January 1, 2017.

**Public Comments:**

None

**Announcements:**

The next CJAB meeting will be December 19, 2016.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved at 3:30PM.